

17 November 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : DOD Study of the Watch Committee,  
Operations Centers, etc.

1. Herewith a draft Agency position on Henderson's paper. Please give me your comments or concurrence by COB Monday, 20 November.

2. I have not attempted to assess Community attitudes toward our proposal, but am fully aware that this is not a simple question.

3. Henderson has slightly revised his draft. The changes muffle somewhat his assault on the service operation centers, waffle his language on the relationship of ASD (I) and DCI, make considerably more explicit his plan to center collection guidance in NMIC, and introduce more advertising material for NSA.

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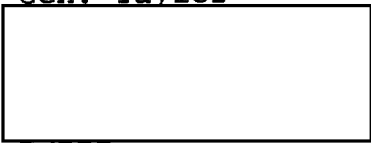
  
RICHARD LEHMAN

Director of Current Intelligence


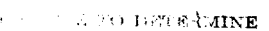
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20 November 1972

NOTE FOR: Mr. Lehman

Dick:

I concur with the thrust of your draft Agency position with respect to the Henderson paper. I also agree that the Henderson recommendations represent a challenge to basic responsibilities of the DCI and that this challenge can best be met pre-empting any action on Hall's part by a specific counter proposal.

I would only suggest that you broaden the rationale for a National Intelligence Operations Center directly under the DCI at the CIA. Currently your paper discusses the question in the context of militarily oriented crises and rests its argument for having the NIOC at CIA on the Director's statutory responsibilities. As valid as this argument is, it would seem worth pointing out also that the Director (and a National Intelligence Operations Center) must be prepared to serve the President and his operators during political or economic crises which may have no threatening aspects from a military standpoint. The NIOC must therefore be structured to support a broader interest and a wider range of customers than the DoD alone. Depending on the nature of the crisis and the department designated by the White House as the operator, the NIOC might service operations centers in State, and perhaps some day in Commerce or Treasury, much as you propose serving the NMIC with the NIC.

With regard to paragraph c on page 19 where you discuss the expansion of NIOC functions to the direction of collection systems, I would suggest the use of the word tasking instead of direction as it applies to this function.

Don Steininger

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